

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, One of the basic aims of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as set forth in its Congressional Charter is "to foster true patriotism"; and,

*Whereas*, The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarship Contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary have proven to be effective instruments for putting these words into action; and,

*Whereas*, The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarship Contest provides an opportunity for middle school and high school students to think, write, and speak up for our country for freedom and democracy; and,

*Whereas*, An active, dedicated, and resourceful population is vital to the preservation of freedom; and,

*Whereas*, This year's themes, "My Vision for America" and "Freedom Means to Me" focus the attention of tomorrow's leaders on democracy as a form of government "above and beyond" any other form of government and how their guidance will preserve democracy as a way of life for the future of our Republic; and,

*Whereas*, An active, dedicated, and resourceful population is vital to the preservation of freedom:

*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 1, 2016, as

### *VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN DAY*

in South Dakota, and I hereby commend the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary for their sponsorship of the annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Program, and I call on all middle school and high school students to think, write, and speak up for the future of democracy.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

*Dennis Daugaard*  
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

*Shantel Krebs*  
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State